JAMES MCGRATH MORRIS

7746 Heritage Woods Way
Annandale, VA
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(703) 256-5240

Mail@JamesMcGrathMorris.com

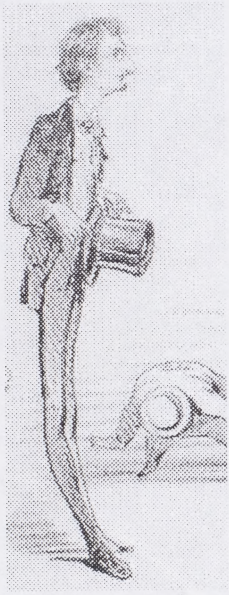

Illustration from an 1873 dinner menu at a banquet celebrating Pulitzer's return to St. Louis from Europe. (Missouri Historical Society.)

October 30, 2006

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

I received a letter today from Emmy Pulitzer who told me that you have a loan document relating to Joseph Pulitzer's purchase of the *Westliche Post.*

I don't know if Emmy told you, but I am working full-time on a new biography of Pulitzer to be published later this decade by HarperCollins.

Many of the details of Pulitzer's financial involvement with the *Westliche Post* remain unknown. Your document could be a Rosetta stone for me. I was very excited to hear about its existence.

So I am writing you in the hopes that I either I could obtain a copy or send a research assistant I have working for me in St. Louis to come and take some notes. Of course, I would cite the document in my book in whatever manner you prefer.

Best wishes,

James McGrath Morris

Mr. James McGrath Morris
7728 Heritage Woods Way
Annandale VA 22003

November 9, 2006

Dear Mr. Morris:
I was pleased to have Emmy write you as to my casual mention to her of a Joseph Pulitzer document in our collection.
I enclose a color photocopy of the $4,500 note of Joseph Pulitzer payable to Emil Pretorius dated in 1872. I presumed it was for small ownership in the Westliche Post because there was a mention of a modification in editorship in Scharf (History of the City and County of St. Louis, 1883). I am sure you are familiar with this publication because it has an extensive write up of Joseph Pulitzer in the Press section but my information was from a separate Westliche Post portion of that section. It should have been quite accurate because it was written so close to the events.
If you wish to use an image of the note in a publication I will have a digital image made whuch would be much more readable.
I hope I have been helpful.
My best. Eric P. Newman

cc: Emily Rauh Pulitzer
4903 Pershing Ave.
St. Louis MO 63108

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. James McGrath Morris
7728 Heritage Woods Way
Annandale VA 22003

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Illustration from an 1873 dinner menu at a banquet celebrating Pulitzer's return to St. Louis from Europe. (Missouri Historical Society.)

November 19, 2006

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

You have, indeed, been very helpful. The document you possess answers many questions and, of course, opens up new ones.

You are correct that the note was in connection with a change in ownership at the *Westliche Post*. During the 1872 elections Pulitzer gained a stake in the paper. "They thought I was necessary to the paper," said Pulitzer. "They probably would have done the same thing to any other man who worked sixteen hours a day, as I did through that campaign." In 1873, Schurz and Preetorius bought back the shares.

The document confirms this story for the first time and the dates on your document are also very helpful. For instance, Pulitzer paid off this note two weeks after Gov. Woodson refused to reappoint him to the St. Louis Police Commission and Pulitzer was upset with Preetorius because he had not supported his campaign for another term on the commission.

So I am very grateful you sent me a copy of the note. It will be of enormous help in piecing together this part of the story. In a few weeks I will send you a copy of the chapter in which this episode appears. I hope you'll enjoy it and your contribution to the telling of this tale.

Again, my thanks.

Sincerely yours,

James McGrath Morris

cc: Emily Rauh Pulitzer

Emily Rauh Pulitzer

November 22, 2006

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

How fascinating to have a copy of the $4,500 note of Joseph Pulitzer's. I know that Jamie Morris was thrilled to receive it. I am sure that his book will not only be well-written but full of interesting information.

Sincerely,

Emily

Emily Rauh Pulitzer

4903 Pershing Place, St. Louis, Missouri 63108
Tel: (314) 361-3212 Fax: (314) 361-2693